



THE PHOENIX FLYER – SEPTEMBER 2023



Fred C. Cook Public School | 20 Fletcher Street, Bradford ON L3Z 1L9
Office Telephone: (905) 775 4821

Website: <http://fcc.scdsb.on.ca>
Twitter: @FredCCookPS

Inclement Weather Zone: South

Principal: Greg Blakeley Vice Principal: Anne Wright SASE: Angela Bava
Superintendent: Matthew Webbe Trustee: Debbie Connors

NEW SAFE ARRIVAL TELEPHONE NUMBER

1-888-885-8065
To report student absence

School Hours

Yard Supervision	8:55 AM
Entry Bell	9:10 AM
First Break	10:50-11:30 AM
Second Break	1:10-1:50 PM
Dismissal	3:30 PM

Dear Phoenix Families and Caregivers,

On behalf of our entire school staff, we would like to welcome all students, families, and caregivers to the 2023-2024 school year at FCC. A special welcome to all our new students, families and staff members who have joined our school community this fall. We are very excited to be here for the start of a new year of learning together. Last winter and spring we had the opportunity to spend time exploring and obtaining an insight into the life of our school. It is evident that Fred C is a caring and supportive community. We look forward to the opportunity this year to work collaboratively with you and our student(s).

FCC staff have been working hard to prepare for Sept 5th!. Thank you Ms. Bava for getting us ready to go. We thank our custodial team who have worked throughout the summer to make our school a clean and safe environment. The staff have been busy making preparations to make this an amazing year of learning for our students.

We look forward to working with you as partners in education. We are proud to be part of a staff that continues to strive for excellence in academics and works towards building solid foundations in social and emotional relationships for your child(ren). You have our continued commitment towards student growth and success. As a community, we can be successful when all members work together to establish positive relationships that are open, co-operative and trusting.

We encourage you to take time to read through all the information in this newsletter. In addition, we will post our daily announcements on our school website and use Twitter to share school-wide messages.

Please accept our best wishes for a safe, happy, healthy New Year.

Mr. Blakeley and Ms. Wright

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From the Office

To report a student's absence or late arrival please call **1-888-885-8065** prior to the start of the school day at 9:10. When a message is left after the entry bell you may receive a call in regard to your student's absence.

To minimize disruptions, we would ask that you ensure to send your child with a lunch, water bottle, snacks, and all necessary belongings each morning. Dropping off items at the school during the middle of the day will not ensure a timely delivery and there is the possibility of a mix-up.

In addition, to minimize disruptions, we ask that students arrive at school in time for the 9:10 AM bell and remain at school until dismissal at 3:30 PM with the exception being unforeseen situations and appointments.



Start time



End time

Subscribe & Follow Fred C. Cook for the latest information and updates at our school

- Our school's website <http://fcc.scdsb.on.ca/> (Click Subscribe at the top of home page to stay up to date)
- Follow us on Twitter for the latest updates and exciting events & news @FredCCookPS



DATES to Remember

Month of September	
September 5 th	First Day of School
September 7 th	First Day of School for Junior Kindergarten Students
September 11 th	School Council Meeting – 6:00pm – School Library
September 22 nd	P.A. Day -NO SCHOOL-
September 25 th -29 th	Reconciliation Week
September 27 th	Turn Around Day
September 28 th	Terry Fox Run
September 29 th	Orange Shirt Day
Month of October	
October 3 rd	School Council Meeting - 6:00pm – School Library
October 4 th	SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
Significant days, holy days and heritage recognition occurring this month – please see the link to: Holy Days Link Heritage Recognition Link	

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Spirit-Wear

Please see the link for our newly designed **spirit-wear**.

<https://bigleaguegear.ca/collections/fred-c-cook-public-spiritwear>



Communication to families regarding inclement weather days

Please note that APM A3020 – Inclement Weather, 3.1.2 states that “parents/guardians are to be reminded, in writing at appropriate times (October and January) each school year, that it is their responsibility to decide whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.”



Inclement weather and bus cancellation information reminder

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC)'s bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the **South zone**. When buses are cancelled, schools remain open for student learning, unless otherwise noted. School staff are expected to plan for such emergencies in order to transition students who are unable to attend due to inclement weather, to their online platforms (Google Classroom and/or SCDSBhub [Brightspace by D2L]) and continue with academic programming. It is always a family decision whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school under severe weather conditions.

The Consortium and bus operators try to make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and make every effort to post announcements before 7 a.m. Inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can follow the Consortium on Twitter [@SCSTC_SchoolBus](https://twitter.com/SCSTC_SchoolBus) for bus cancellations and other information. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here:

<https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>.



School bus transportation information available from the SCSTC

In order to receive delay and cancellation notifications, families can check the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca or download the 'BusPlanner Delays' app from the Apple or Android app stores to receive delay notifications to their devices. Users would need to select Simcoe County STC as the transportation authority. The app will need to be forced closed, but you will be able to select your student(s) routes or school to receive delays.

GIFTED SCREENING INFORMATION

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability require additional program support in order to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction and through providing program modifications. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in gifted classroom placements. Families/Caregivers of a student who will be in Grade 3 this school year, who wish to nominate their child for gifted screening are asked to contact the school by the end of September. Students may be nominated by either a teacher or family/caregiver. A letter explaining the gifted screening process in greater detail will be sent to families/caregivers of students in Grade 3 before nominations close. If you require further information about the gifted screening process, please contact Ms. Wright at aewright@scdsb.on.ca.

Introducing Fred C Cook Eco Squad

At Fred C, our values and commitment to sustainability as a school community are apparent as we received “Platinum” certification from Eco Schools Canada for the 2022 2023 school year. We are proud of this accomplishment, and it motivates us to continue with earth saving attitudes and establish school-wide practices and habits from the start. Our student-led Eco Squad will be introducing their environmental goals, values, and actions for whole school community action and learning this year over the next few months. Stay tuned for monthly information on ways you too may participate with us.



Waste-Free Lunch Initiative W.O.W. FCC!!

Fred C is committed to reducing our school's waste and negative impact on our environment. As one action towards this goal, we are encouraging everyone to bring waste-free lunches. (**WOW = Wipe Out Waste**)

A waste free lunch may include reusable food and drink containers, washable cutlery, and cloth napkins instead of prepackaged foods, single use plastic baggies, juice boxes/pouches, paper napkins, aluminum foil, and disposable utensils. When we go waste free, we are helping reduce the environmental impacts caused from unnecessary transport, production, and disposal of packaging products. Come on FCC and join in to take action by tackling the first of the “3 R’s” by reducing the amount of waste generated at our school!



Reconciliation Week September 26th - 30th, 2022

Learning and commemorating the truth of our history with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people is an important part of the path to Reconciliation. Please join us as we memorialize the children lost to the residential school system, and honour Survivors and their families, by wearing an orange shirt on September 29th.

Education is what got us into this mess, and education will get us out.

— Hon. Murray Sinclair

Terry Fox Run



Fred C. Cook staff and students will be participating in our annual Terry Fox Run.

On April 12, 1980, Terry started his Marathon of Hope.
When he stopped running, everyone started writing.

This year, we continue the annual Terry Fox School Run surrounded by messages of love, hope, and inspiration from Canadians everywhere.

Terry Fox set the bar high for himself when he started his Marathon of Hope, saying, “Nobody is ever going to call me a quitter.” Our school is proudly taking part in this year's Terry Fox School Run to continue Terry's legacy. Please support our school's fundraising efforts to raise much-needed funds for cancer research. To donate visit <https://schools.terryfox.ca/36116>

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SCDSB launches updated character education program for 2023-24 school year

This year the SCDSB will begin implementation of the updated character education program. Rather than focus on one attribute each month, the program has been changed to reflect that character is a fluid concept that includes a variety of attributes.

The updated character attributes are:

Bravery	Helpfulness	Listening	Responsibility
Caring	Honesty	Love	Trustworthiness
Compassion	Humility	Loyalty	Truth
Cooperation	Inclusiveness	Optimism	Sharing
Courage	Integrity	Perseverance	Wisdom
Empathy	Kindness	Respect	

For more information on the updated character education program, visit the character education page on the SCDSB website: www.scdsb.on.ca/about/character_education.

September PA Day

Please note that Friday, Sept. 22 is a PA Day for all SCDSB students. Please refer to the 2023-24 School Year Calendar on the SCDSB website for more information: www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/planning_for_school/school_year_calendar.

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the Sept. 22 PA Day:

Length:	Full day
Topic:	Reading and Literacy, Social Studies, Assessment
Host:	Simcoe County District School Board
Presenter(s)/facilitator(s):	School board staff and school administrators

Educators will participate in person to review the newly revised Language Curriculum, *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language, 2023*, and new de-streamed *English, Grade 9, and Français, 9e année* courses and explore resources to support their implementation with students. Through group discussions and hands-on activities, elementary educators will learn about early reading instruction and the use of screening tools to help ensure that students with reading difficulties are identified and supported early. They will also explore and plan for literacy instruction across the curriculum, including the new Holocaust Education curriculum in Grade 6. Secondary educators will also engage in assessment activities and the collaborative planning of student tasks and opportunities to inform both course instruction and evaluation.



New Safe Arrival system for SCDSB schools – call 1-888-885-8065 to report an absence

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) has a new Safe Arrival system at elementary schools. This system will support us in continuing to improve our home-to-school communication process and streamline absence reporting. To report a student absence, call 1-888-885-8065. Callers will be prompted to identify the school before leaving a message. Parents should include the student's name, teachers' name, dates, and reason for the absence. When schools do not hear from a parent/guardian, and a student is absent, the school will call home to find out the reason for the absence. If you have questions about the new system, please contact the school office.

SCDSB 2023-24 Student Handbook

The SCDSB 2023-24 Student Handbook can be found on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent and on school websites under 'students'. If you have questions, please contact the school.

Universal Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) screening process

The OLSAT is a standardized group test of ability. The results of this test will help us gain a better understanding of students' areas of relative strength and needs as related to their verbal and non-verbal abilities so that we can plan our programs and supports accordingly. Results may also be used to inform identification (e.g., Intellectual: Gifted).

Students who display an advanced degree of general intellectual ability may require additional program support to reach their educational potential. This support may be through enhancing the curriculum, differentiated instruction, and through providing program extensions and enrichment. This type of programming is important to engage, motivate, and challenge students who are identified as gifted in either the regular classroom or in an elementary gifted classroom placement.

A consent form examining the universal OLSAT screening process in greater detail will be sent to parent(s)/ guardian(s) of students in Grade 3 via School Cash Online in September. If you require further information about the universal OLSAT screening process, please contact the school.

School council nominations for 2023-24 school year

School council is a committee made up of elected parents/guardians, community representatives, staff, and sometimes students that help to provide the community voice and parent/guardian perspective on important school topics. School council is a good way for parents/guardians to get involved in their child/children's education while playing an important role in the partnership between home and school.

School council nominations take place every fall. If you are interested, please watch your email for upcoming communication and for more information visit www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/parent/school_councils.

Annual notice to adult students or parent(s)/guardian(s) of students under the age of 16

A completed Student Medical Form (FORM A1420 - 1) is required each school year, or when a medical need is identified, or when the student transfers to another school, in order to authorize medical response plan development and the administration of prescribed medication to students who require it during school hours, or when the medication and/or dosage requirements change. Specific to asthma, every student is now permitted to carry their asthma medication if the student has their parent's/guardian's permission. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are responsible for ensuring that a current, completed Student Medical Form is on file at the school. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and adult students are also to complete a Plan of Care for students with prevalent medical conditions such as anaphylaxis, asthma, type 1 diabetes, or epilepsy/seizure disorder.

Some students may experience severe life-threatening allergic reactions to bee, hornet, wasp, or other flying insect stings or to certain foods or food ingredients such as peanuts. The best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure for these students is to respectfully ask parent(s)/guardian(s) to avoid sending peanut butter or products with peanuts and/or tree nuts listed in the ingredients to school. For students with life-threatening allergies, it is recommended that two doses of an epinephrine auto-injector are available on site at school. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have.

Standard acknowledgment and permission form/student information computing technology appropriate use agreement 2023-24

The 2023-24 Standard Acknowledgment and Permission Form and Student Information Computing Technology Appropriate Use Agreement are required forms for all Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) students. The forms have been made available electronically through School Cash Online until Oct. 16. School Cash Online is our preferred method for forms. If you are unable to submit these forms electronically, please contact the office for paper copies

www.schoolcashonline.com

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Student Accident Insurance 2023-24

Student injuries at school during school events, extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and out-of-province/out-of-country trips are not covered by the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen.

A variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices can be found through either:

- StudyInsured at www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or by calling 1-833-560-0527; or,
- Insure my Kids through at www.insuremykids.com or by calling 1-800-463-5437.

Participation in extra-curricular activities (e.g., athletics, clubs, etc.) and/or out-of-province/ out-of-country trips require the purchase of this insurance, or other extended health and dental coverage.

Volunteering in schools during the 2023-24 school year

Volunteers are an important part of what makes our schools great places to learn and grow. We value and appreciate the support of our volunteers. Volunteers have various roles at our schools including:

- School event volunteer
- Hot lunch day organizers
- Field trip supervisors
- Classroom helpers

Please contact your local school's office if you are interested in volunteering and would like to know more about the opportunities available.

To become a volunteer in a Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) school, you must complete accessibility training and submit a current (dated within six months) Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC). Schools require all VSCs to be in their original form and emailed directly to the school for processing. Please note, volunteers are unable to upload VSCs directly to the volunteer portal. Each potential volunteer must create an account within the volunteer portal. Please remember to choose the school you wish to volunteer with.

If you do not have a computer or require assistance, please contact the school.

Current volunteers

Current approved volunteers must keep their Community Apps account/Volunteer Portal information up-to-date with email address changes. Communication is sent throughout the year to the provided email address with respect to timelines, necessary requirements, etc. regarding your volunteer status. Instructions on how to change your email address in Community Apps can be found [here](#). Updating your email address in your Community Apps account will automatically update your email address in your Volunteer Portal.

If you are also a parent, check out our [Parent Portal](#).

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How to access the Volunteer Portal

Click this [SCDSB Community Apps link](#) or find the link on the volunteer page of your schools website, under the Parents menu.

If you have previously registered a Community Account, click the **Login To Community Apps** button, and login with your username and password.

If you do **not** have an account, click the **New? Register for new Community Account** link at the bottom of the page.



REMINDER: Each volunteer will have to have their own community apps account. Each community apps account is created with a separate email address.

- Complete an annual offence declaration through the SCDSB Community Apps – Volunteers page for up to four years to continue volunteering.
- Submit a new VSC at the beginning of the fifth year.
- Be responsible for the cost of the VSC.
- Be responsible to the principal and work under the supervision of teaching staff.
- Work co-operatively as part of a team to support and supplement school programs.
- Respect the confidentiality of the relationship to the school, ensuring that staff issues and student work and behaviour issues are held in confidence.
- Adhere to established SCDSB and school procedures.
- Communicate regularly with staff.
- Be prompt, dependable and regular in attendance, and give advance notice to teachers when unable to attend.

Procedures help keep our school safe

We have a number of procedures in place to keep our school safe. You can help your child understand and feel safe by:

- talking to them about the situations below
- reminding them that emergencies are rare
- telling them it's important to follow staff instructions in these situations

Parents/guardians should talk about the following emergency drills with their children:

- **Shelter in place** is used when there is an environmental or weather-related situation, like a chemical spill outside the building, or a major storm. Activities continue inside the school. Students and staff are not allowed to leave the building. The ventilation system may be shut off temporarily.

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- A **hold and secure** is used when there is a situation in the community, not related to the school, like a bank robbery nearby. Activities continue, but all exterior doors are locked. No one is allowed to enter or exit the school.
- A **lockdown** is used when there is a major incident or a threat of violence related to the school. Students and staff move to secure areas, away from doors and windows. Interior doors are locked, lights are shut off and blinds are drawn. Students and staff remain quiet. We practice lockdown drills at least two times per year. In the unlikely event of an actual lockdown situation, police ask that parents/guardians do not go to the school. Information will be communicated through the school board social media sites (www.facebook.com/SCDSB and www.twitter.com/SCDSB_Schools) and website (www.scdsb.on.ca), through local police and local media.
- All schools have **evacuation plans** in case of gas leaks, bomb threats or fire incidents that would require everyone to leave the school. We hold drills to practice our evacuation plan. In a real evacuation, students and staff may go to the evacuation site, depending on the situation. Parents/guardians will be informed about pick-up procedures by the school, school board and local media.

When parents/guardians are at school during a drill or emergency event, they must follow direction from school staff, police, fire, and/or emergency personnel. Parents/guardians may not have immediate access to their children during drills or emergencies. They may need to wait until the situation is resolved and school staff and/or emergency personnel release students into parent/guardian care.

It's important for you to know we'll always take whatever precautions are necessary to keep our school and students safe.

Please note the following:

- Elementary school main doors are locked during the school day. Visitors must use the **intercom system** and wait for assistance. **Staff may not be available to answer the door immediately, so please be patient.**
- Staff must complete a **criminal record check** before having contact with students.
- We ask parents/guardians of elementary students to contact us when their child will be absent from school as part of our **Safe Arrival** program. When we don't hear from a parent/guardian and a student is absent, we will call home to find out the reason for the absence.
- At least two staff members in every school are trained in **first aid and CPR**. All SCDSB schools have **automated external defibrillators (AEDs)**.

Student dress code

Our board's dress code is one way that we embed the principles set out in the SCDSB and Ministry of Education documents, Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario, and Equity and Inclusive Education to ensure safe, inclusive and equitable learning environments for all of our students. In SCDSB schools, we believe that students should be able to learn in a safe and caring space that is free of

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bias and discrimination. When making choices about what to wear to school, we respect your individuality. To ensure that our learning environments are safe and respectful spaces, our board has consulted with students and staff to develop a set of shared standards for student dress.

The SCDSB dress code is available on the SCDSB website at www.scdsb.on.ca/elementary/dress_code. If you have questions about the dress code, contact your school principal.

School bus 'Bus Tag' program helps students get to and from school safely

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's Bus Tag program supports safety for JK/SK and other school-identified students. The program helps match students to their assigned afternoon school bus and identifies that they must be met by a parent/guardian at their afternoon bus stop.

The program provides a colour coded bus tag with the assigned p.m. route number, to be attached to the student's backpack, and a colour-coded route card with route number in the windows of the school bus that the bus tag is matched to. The program can also provide tags for students who are walkers and/or who remain at an on-site childcare centre to make sure they don't get on a bus in error. For more information, visit main.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca.